

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 02529 161032Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7838
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 2529

PASS EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENG, IV
SUBJ: MAJOR PRODUCTS: PROPOSED PORT OF ABIDJAN
EXPANSION

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN RECENT MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICER, DIRECTOR OF
THE PORT OF ABIDJAN ODAH DISCUSSED THE PROPOSED PORT
EXPANSION ON THE LOCODJO PENINSULA. THE PLAN INCLUDES:
3 CONTAINER PIERS WHICH TOTAL 750 METERS AND A SURROUNDING
AREA OF 15 HECTARES OF STORAGE SPACE;
12 PIERS FOR GENERAL MERCHANDISE TOTALLING 800 METERS;
A DUTY FREE ZONE OF 90 HECTARES;
AN INDUSTRIAL ZONE OF 200 HECTARES ADJACENT TO THE PORT
FACILITIES;
A MINERAL PORT WHICH IS DEPENDENT ON THE JAPANESE
MANGANESE PROJECT TAMBAA IN UPPER VOLTA. THIS PORT
WILL PERMIT EXPORTATION OF 700,000 TONS OF MANGANESE
PER YEAR AND WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE ABIDJAN-OUAGA-
DOUGOU RAILWAY LINE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO ODAH, "IF
THE PRICE OF MANGANESE GOES THROUGH THE FLOOR, THE
MANGANESE PORT WILL BE CONVERTED TO A CEMENT PORT."

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A NEW ACCESS CHANNEL TO THE MINERAL PORT;
A CEREAL PORT;
A SUGAR PORT;
A NEW FISHING PORT;
NEW ACCESS ROAD TO THE PORT AREA;
RAILWAY LINE EXTENSIONS, TO CONNECT PORT AREA WITH

EXISTING ABIDJAN-OUAGADOUGOU LINE.

2. WHEN ASKED WHAT SPECIFIC TYPES OF EQUIPMENT WILL BE NEEDED, ODAH CITED CONTAINERS, STOCKPILING EQUIPMENT FOR CONTAINERS, TUG BOATS, MOTORIZED LAUNCHES, TROLLEYS, MOORING BUOYS, ELECTRIC LINES.

3. ALL CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION WILL BE AWARDED THROUGH BIDS; THE BID BOOKS SHOULD BE READY SOMETIME IN APRIL. INTERESTED COMPANIES WILL BE GIVEN 3 MONTHS TO RESPOND; THE PORT WILL THEN TAKE 3 MONTHS TO REVIEW PROPOSALS AND CHOOSE THE CONTRACTOR. CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST PHASE IS PLANNED FOR LATE 1978 AND THE ENTIRE EXPANSION SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY 1981.

4. ODAH WAS RELUCTANT TO QUOTE AN EXACT COST FOR THE ENTIRE PROJECT BUT STATED THAT THE OFTEN QUOTED 29 BILLION CFA APPROXIMATELY \$84 MILLION FIGURE IS MUCH TOO LOW
HE ALSO STATED THAT FINANCING PACKAGE HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED AND THAT INTERESTED COMPANIES WOULD DO WELL TO INCLUDE FINANCING PACKAGES IN THEIR PROPOSALS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. WHEN ASKED IF THE FRENCH HAD ALREADY BEEN AWARDED THE CONTRACT FOR THE CONTAINER PORT, ODAH REPLIED THAT AS FAR AS HE KNEW THAT THE CONTRACT WAS STILL OPEN; HOWEVER, FRENCH MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIALS HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROJECT WITH THE GOIC AND IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT A DECISION MAY HAVE BEEN MADE "AT A HIGHER LEVEL" WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. HE ADDED THAT EVEN IF THE FRENCH ULTIMATELY GET THE CONTAINER CONTRACT HERE ARE STILL 800 METERS OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE PIER LEFT FOR OTHERS TO BUILD
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6. INTERESTED COMPANIES CAN ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO:
MR. LAURENT ODAH, DIRECTEUR GENERAL, BOITE POSTALE 1360, ABIDJAN, IVORY COAST.
STEARNS

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